

LOWER COLUMBIA – LEWIS FALL CHINOOK

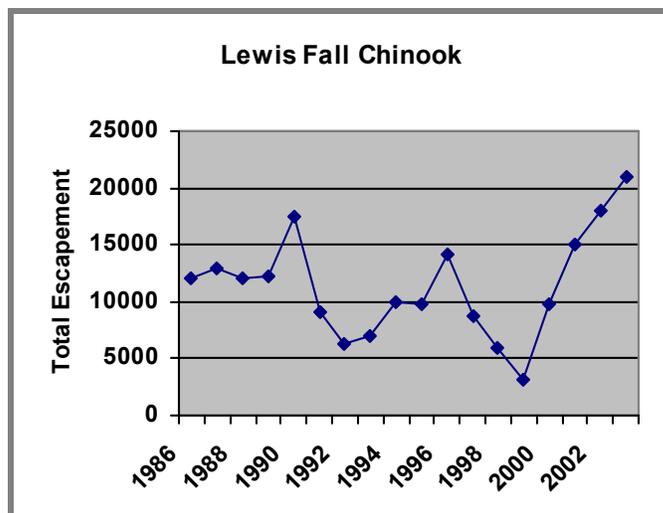
STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS Healthy	2002 STATUS Healthy
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STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: *Good*

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	11,983
1987	12,935
1988	12,052
1989	12,199
1990	17,506
1991	9,066
1992	6,307
1993	7,025
1994	9,936
1995	9,715
1996	14,166
1997	8,670
1998	5,935
1999	3,184
2000	9,820
2001	15,000
2002	17,954
2003	21,049



Data are total escapement estimates based on annual peak live plus dead spawner counts from Merwin Dam (RM19.6) downstream to the Lewis River Hatchery (RM 15.7).

Stock status is rated **Healthy** in 2002 because escapements have exceeded the goal of 5,700 adults in every year since 1986 except 1999.

STOCK DEFINITION

Lewis fall Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution, late spawning timing and appearance. This stock is a “bright” fall Chinook stock.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place from the Lewis River Hatchery upstream to Merwin Dam.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from October to January.

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GENETIC ANALYSIS: Allozyme analysis of natural Chinook spawners sampled in the North Fork Lewis in 1990 showed that they are genetically distinct from other Columbia Basin fall Chinook except East Fork Lewis fall Chinook and Washougal fall Chinook (Marshall et al. 1995).

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **wild** production. There have been relatively few hatchery releases into the Lewis River. Annual releases occurred from 1971 to 1985 and consisted of about 50,000 to 150,000 fingerlings.